

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 241239Z MAR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2215

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1651

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: DEMARCHE TO PORTUGUESE

REF: STATE 65523

1. REFTTEL DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL 1930 LOCAL MARCH 23, TOO LATE TO TAKE ACTION. AS OF 12:30 LOCAL MARCH 24 WE AND BRITISH ARE ONLY NATO REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE INSTRUCTIONS, ALTHOUGH GERMANS SAY THEIRS ARE ON THE WAY AND ITALIANS ANTICIPATE GUIDANCE. IRISH AMBASSADOR HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS; BELIEVES ANY DEMARCHE ON ANY SUBJECT TO BE A MISTAKE.

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2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTIONS GAVE HIM OPTION OF

MAKING DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT OR PRIME MINISTER. IN CONSULTATION WITH ME HE DECIDED ON PRESIDENT AND WILL REQUEST HIS APPOINTMENT IMMEDIATELY. I WILL REQUEST MINE ABOUT AN HOUR LATER. BRITISH TALKING POINTS CONSIDERABLY SOFTER THAN OURS. THEY FOCUS ENTIRELY ON ELECTIONS AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT GOP WILL MOVE AHEAD WITH ELECTIONS IN ATMOSPHERE FREE OF INTIMIDATION. THEY CONDEMN VIOLENCE FROM ANY QUARTER INCLUDING MARCH 11 VIOLENCE. NO MENTION IS MADE OF COMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT OR ANTI-WESTERN ATTITUDES.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME QUAI HAD INFORMED HIM OF SECRETARY'S LETTER AND REQUESTED HIS VIEWS LAST NIGHT. HE REPORTED TO QUAI THAT SITUATION IS VERY SERIOUS, BUT THAT DEMARCHE WOULD BE A MISTAKE. SPECIFICALLY ANY DEMARCHE THAT DEALT WITH CABINET COMPOSITION WOULD BE "DANGEROUS." SAID MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT HAD TOLD HIM THAT COSTA GOMES HAS BEEN COMPLETELY EXCLUDED FROM DELIBERATIONS ON NEW CABINET. FRENCH AMBASSADOR THINKS COSTA GOMES IS POWERLESS AND THAT ANY APPROACH TO VASCO GONCALVES WOULD PROVOKE BLOW-UP. THEREFORE BEST COURSE IS TO WAIT AND WORK WITH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. IF I AM GRANTED APPOINTMENT TODAY IT IS CLEAR THAT WE WILL BE VERY MUCH OUT IN FRONT BOTH IN TERMS OF TIMING AND IN TERMS OF TOUGHNESS OF OUR DEMARCHE. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT IS A MISTAKE TO RAISE CABINET COMPOSITION. ADVERSE REACTION TO THIS PART OF DEMARCHE IN MY JUDGMENT WILL UNDERCUT OTHER POINTS WE WISH TO MAKE. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION OF INTENT TO APPOINT A COMMUNIST AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR; THERE AREN'T EVEN RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT. PHRASE "LEFTIST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" IS ALSO LIKELY TO PROVOKE IRE.

5. ANOTHER FACTOR HAS JUST ARISEN WHICH COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON OUR DEMARCHE. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM LISBON 1643 AND PRESS COVERAGE, ARMED FORCES ANNOUNCED VIA NATIONWIDE TV SUNDAY NIGHT MARCH 25 UNCOVERING OF SPANISH-BASED ORGANIZATION AIMED AT OVERTHROW OF GOP. THIS VERY MUCH FOCUS OF EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION TODAY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT. ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE GROUP IS REPORTED TO HAVE THE NAME OF MORGAN. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE THERE IS PROBABLY SOME SUBSTANCE TO THIS PLOT, AND ITS DRAMATIC DISCOVERY WILL PLAY FURTHER

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INTO THE HANDS OF THE LEFTISTS. EMOTIONS ARE AGAIN RUNNING VERY HIGH, AND BUCKLEY STATEMENT WAS UNHELPFUL. OUR STRONG DEMARCHE WILL BE USED BY OUR ENEMIES IN GOP AS FURTHER "EVIDENCE" USG TRYING TO COVER ITS TRACKS AND MUDDY WATERS BECAUSE OF COLLUSION WITH MARCH 11 AND OTHER PLOTTERS.

6 IN TALKING WITH COSTA GOMES I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT WE CONDEMN VIOLENCE FROM ANY GROUP RIGHT OR LEFT (AS

BRITISH ARE SAYING) AND WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES HE FACES IN DEALING WITH EXTREMIST ACTIVITY IN WAKE OF MARCH 11 EVENTS. WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM AND TO DEVELOP A COMMON STRATEGY.

7. AS MATTERS NOW STAND WE HAVE THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE LEAST CREDIBLE TRACK RECORD ON DEMARCHES TAKING THE TOUGHEST LINE OF ANY NATO AMBASSADOR WITH THE SHAKIEST SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE REVOLUTIONARY POWER STRUCTURE. BUT I UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO DO THIS.

8. HAVE JUST TALKED TO PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF CABINET. HE WILL SPEAK TO PRESIDENT ABOUT GETTING ME IN LATER TODAY.
CARLUCCI

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